The Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan has recently applied for a number of federal grant opportunities to inform, support, and expand demand-driven workforce training/work based learning throughout our state.

The recent applications are:

1. American Apprenticeship Initiative grant application for $2.954 million, April 28
2. Unemployment Insurance Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment for $961,746, May 1
3. Workforce Data Quality Initiative grant application for $1.17 million, May 4
4. Sector Partnership National Emergency Grant for $7 million*, May 29
5. Disability Employment Initiative grant application for $2.5 million, June 10
6. An application for the Workforce Innovation Fund opportunity is currently being prepared for $6 million, with a July 23 due date.

   *On June 18, 2015, USDOL ETA awarded Michigan the full $7 million requested in the state's Sector Partnership NEG application*

**American Apprenticeship Initiative**

The American Apprenticeship Initiative grant seeks $2.954 million to launch the Michigan Apprenticeship Success Network (MASN) with additional direct investment of $1.65 million in leverage contributions from Local Project Lead and partners for a total value to the state of $4.6M.

MASN is designed to scale apprenticeship programs in H-1B occupations and improve accessibility for underserved populations in rural and outstate communities within 25 counties - Regions 2, 4, and 5 in Michigan through: 1) the establishment of an Apprenticeship Success Coordinator Network, 2) connecting to and leveraging Employer Resource Networks and business-led collaboratives, and 3) replicating on-ramping pre-apprenticeship strategies.

Local Project Leads in Prosperity Regions 2, 4, & 5:

❖ Networks Northwest – Local Workforce Investment Board
❖ Area Community Services and Training Council (ASCET) – Local Workforce Investment Board
❖ Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! – Local Workforce Investment Board
❖ Montcalm Community College – Public Educational Institution

The Local Project Leads have partnership agreements and commitments from 34 employers, 5 additional educational institutions/Post-Secondary training providers, 2 business-led collaborative and 2 community-based organizations

The primary goals of MASN include:

➢ Creating career pathways which align apprenticeships with post-secondary training programs
➢ Increasing registered apprenticeship (RAs) opportunities for target populations
➢ Expanding quality and RAs, especially for H-1B industries and occupations
➢ Utilizing public policy to increase available RAs.

**Unemployment Insurance Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment**

Michigan's application for $961,746 of FY 2015 Unemployment Insurance Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) grants is a partnership between the Unemployment Insurance Agency, the Workforce Development Agency and local Michigan Works! Agencies.  The funding for RESEA grants will be used to offer an enhanced level of Reemployment/Career Services for up to 4,600 UI claimants most likely to exhaust their benefits and new UCX [unemployment compensation for Ex- Military Service Members) claimants because these populations may have more significant barriers to employment. RESEA will provide eligible claimants with a more guided approach to accessing the employment & training services offered by Michigan Works!

RESEA replaces the previous Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) program and grant.  The UI REA program addressed the reemployment needs of certain UI claimants and the prevention and detection of UI improper payments. The RESEA program expands and enhances the career services targeted to identified UI claimants to better meet their reemployment needs, while continuing to detect and prevent UI improper payments. Michigan proposes to transition into providing RESEA services statewide through all 23 MWAs beginning October 1, 2015.

**Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI)**

This WDQI grant seeks $1.17 million to expand the data included in the Michigan *Workforce Longitudinal Data System* (WLDS), work which began with an initial grant award in 2012.  Even with the strong partnership forged among original agency partners, limited data scope is expanded in this next round.  The grant and corresponding data sharing agreements provide access to a broader data set allowing WDA and other relevant state agencies to collect key data and track the achievement of students and workers throughout various programs and into the workforce. This new robust data will be used by stakeholders to better inform policy and programming decisions.

Currently, WLDS partners with:

- Michigan's Department of Education
- Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI)
- IT team, Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB)
- Labor Market Information (LMI), DTMB
- Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA)

This grant would add data from the Michigan Department of State and Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

**Sector Partnership National Emergency Grant (SP NEG)**

The funding of $7 million from the Sector Partnership NEG will allow all of Michigan's Prosperity Regions to expand and enhance their sector partnerships, while improving reemployment and training services for at least 1,330 dislocated worker participants. All regions have identified industry clusters and continue to work with business to ensure the employer's needs are met with skilled workers. Each Region will deliver enhanced career services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act after July 1, 2015. The SP NEG will enable regions to better assess participants, refer to partner agencies,

receive referrals from partner agencies and put together overall strategies to better prepare dislocated worker participants for long term employment.

Beyond enhanced career services, participants may receive job training activities. Michigan has supported work-based learning throughout the state. The work of business service teams has increased On-the-Job-Trainings (OJTs) as a great tool to get immediate training and employment. Other work-based learning models include Fast Start Training, and specific employer-customized training for their industries and sectors. The WDA will work with regional partners to encourage OJTs and other work-based learning activities that result in an industry recognized credential. All other training supported by the SP NEG will focus on resulting in applicable credentials. Funds will also be used to make investments in technology enabled tools to support better skills assessments and job matching.

**Disability Employment Initiative (DEI)**

The DEI grant opportunity seeks $2.5M for supporting support the development and implementation of strategies to improve effective and meaningful participation of individuals with disabilities in the workforce for at least 868 participants. Michigan's DEI project is designed to improve existing career pathways systems by building cross-agency partnerships and implementing strategies to address barriers to success. Michigan's goal is to train existing staff to facilitate an integrated resource team (IRT) approach guiding and assisting individuals with disabilities through existing career pathways, like nursing tracks.

Key Partners for MDEI are: Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, Michigan Workforce Development Agency; Michigan Rehabilitation Services; Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; Michigan Career and Technical Institute; Michigan Association of Rehabilitation Organizations; Livingston County Michigan Works!; Region 4B Michigan Works!; Capital Area Michigan Works!; Peckham Incorporated, and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

The primary goals of Michigan's DEI are to:

➢ Improve educational, training and employment opportunities for young adults with disabilities to provide the skills, competencies, and credentials to obtain in-demand jobs and advance their careers.
➢ Assist individuals with disabilities to successfully navigate and prosper from utilization of the public workforce system and more specifically, opportunities within existing programs and career pathways.
➢ Align agencies by strengthening the Integrated Resource Team (IRT) through joint-training, community of practices and ongoing collaboration to facilitate seamless service for individuals with disabilities.
➢ Increase participation in the Ticket to Work through the number of tickets assigned and improved employment outcomes.

**Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF)**

The Workforce Development Agency and many diverse State and local-level partners are currently preparing an application for a $6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation Fund. The Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) seeks to promote system reforms and innovations that facilitate cooperation across programs to improve employment outcomes, cost effectiveness, and delivery of customer-centered services to job seekers, youth and employers.

Michigan's project focuses on job-driven systems alignment and implementation of a fully integrated workforce development data system. The Michigan Integrated Data System (MIDS) will utilize the WIF grant opportunity to promote accountability, data-driven decision making and customer choice for all workforce development and partner programs. The integrated data system strategy is based upon information received from focus groups of Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) and their workforce service provider users, who furnish access to the true voice of the customers – employers and job-seekers. This information will provide for improved program management, customer tracking, and create the integrated, responsive system that customers and workforce partners have demanded.

Michigan's Integrated Data System will work with several key partners at the state level including: Michigan's Talent Investment Agency which consists of the Workforce Development Agency and the Unemployment Insurance Agency; Bureau of Services for Blind Persons; Michigan Rehabilitation Services; the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Department of Treasury; at the local level, MWAs and Regional Prosperity Boards will be important partners.

Michigan's Integrated [workforce] Data System project seeks to accomplish the following goals:

➢ Improve customers' experience, wherever they may interface with the system.
➢ Connect disparate data to build out a more integrated seamless flow of services.
➢ Enhance and augment strategic program design, aggregate and consolidate data to better serve customers via the integrated system that will drive policy and allow for more effective performance.